

FAULKNER WIT COVERS GRIM ACTION

New Tales Meet Desires of Admirers Who Have Selected Differing Trends in Author as Worthy of Attention—Book of Crime From Offender's Viewpoint—Magellan Living Figure.

By Mary-Carter Roberts.
THE UNVANQUISHED. By William Faulkner. New York: Random House.

TASTES seem to differ with a curious arbitrariness as regards William Faulkner. There are those readers who say that they like his short stories; and then there is that other school which says that he is the novelist of the South in America, but that he only writes his short stories to sell to magazines. For some reason few people seem able to think of him without this mentally dividing his work. To the reviewer it would seem that he has worked with equal competence in both fields and given in each some performances of great goodness and no less obvious badness. The reviewer is aware, nonetheless, that that is not the way most people judge him.

His present volume, however, seems destined to please both schools of readers, for it can be called a collection of short stories or a novel with equal correctness. It is divided into seven chapters and each chapter is a complete story in itself. The same characters, however, are used throughout the book and the action is steady from one story to the next.

They are those tales of the Sartoris tribe, many of which have already been published in magazines, which trace the fortunes of a Mississippi plantation family through the Civil War and into the Reconstruction period. They are told through the experience of young Bayard, the son of the family. Bayard is no more than 14 when Vicksburg falls and the Yankee soldiers pour into the State, raiding and burning. Consequently the bloody and drastic events of the story are told as if seen by the eyes of a child, a manner of writing of which Mr. Faulkner seems fond, since he frequently makes use of it. They include—those events—the secret mass departure from the plantations of the Negroes, who have come to believe that the Yankee soldiers are going to lead them to "Jordan"; the burning of the plantation home; the pursuit of carpet-baggers and the desperate machinations resorted to by the Confederate women that they and their families might not starve. The mood of the book can be known from the title—"The Unvanquished." Mr. Faulkner, who has sometimes written of his State in terms of the least prepossessing human types to be found within it, writes here of heroic behavior and heroic men and women, and does it appropriately, starkly and with surprising directness.

The reviewer likes best the chapters three and four, in which the grim action is high-lighted with humor. These stories tell how Bayard's mother followed the retreating Northern Army and made the commanding officer return to her her mules and the trunk of silver which the soldiers had stolen, and of what fantastic use she later made of the written order for the restitution. They are richly funny tales, marked with a kind of humor which would have pleased the literary creator of the crafty Odysseus.

The collection has the sturdy, witty quality which is Mr. Faulkner's most familiar characteristic. It seems safe to recommend it both to readers who like his novels and those who declare preference for his shorter tales.

DRY GUILLOTINE. By Rene Belbenoit. With an introduction by William La Varre. New York: E. P. Dutton Co.

LAST week was the reviewer's duty to write of a book by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, whose profession it is to bring criminals to justice. In this book she has the present book to describe and it is by a criminal, being, too, nothing more than the criminal's statement of what befalls men after they are duly imprisoned for their misdeeds. It is the work of a Frenchman, who escaped after 15 years from the great penal colony of French Guiana. There is, of course, no possible basis of comparison between America's crime-detecting agencies and the French system of prison administration. Nonetheless, there is something startling about reading the two books in close sequence. The one states the psychology of the guardian of the law; the other tells that of the lawbreaker. Taking the two together, the sharp effect of the contrast is inescapable.

Rene Belbenoit would seem to have been a congenial criminal. He was the son of an honest father and was urged by that parent to educate himself for some profession. At the age of 15, however, he was so enamored of the idea of easy money that he became a thief. He was caught, and after arrest after his first crime by enlisting in the army. Though under age, he managed to get himself accepted and served through the World War. Immediately on demobilization, however, he started again to steal; this time he emptied the till of his employer's business because, as he says indignantly, it contained more than he could save in many weeks of hard work. He used this money to buy smart clothes and impress a sweetheart.

After the money was gone he sought employment again and found a place as valet in the home of a wealthy family. Here, he admits he was ill-treated and well paid. However, he considered the work which he had to do "menial." He saw his mistress' pearls and purse lying unguarded on her table one day and decided, by virtue of the sight, to improve his status in the world.

So he took the necklace and money and left for Paris, sending his sweetheart word to meet him. His luck had turned, however, and he was arrested. Tried and found guilty, he was sentenced to eight years' hard labor in the penal colony.

All this preliminary history is told by William La Varre in his introduction and Mr. La Varre, who plainly has great sympathy for Belbenoit, has done his best to make the case pathetic—even to implying that the youth's criminal tendency came from that hard-worked modern excuse—a mother complex. Those, substantially, are the facts, however, sympathy aside. Young Belbenoit became a thief without any kind of privation or necessity to spur him. He was able to find work, but he preferred stealing.

His narrative begins with his sentence and shortly after takes the reader to the Guiana penal colony. The picture which he paints of the convict's life in that prison camp is the customary one of horror undiluted; a number of escaped men have already written of the abuses of the place and Blair Niles' book also covers the subject pretty well. All writers seem to be in agreement that the colony is a place of revolting brutality and unspeakable viciousness.



RENE BELBENOIT.

Or prisoner No. 46635, author of "Dry Guillotine: Fifteen Years Among the Living Dead." Mr. Belbenoit's book is illustrated with drawings by a fellow convict and carries an introduction by William La Varre, F. R. G. S. (E. P. Dutton.)

eight years there, Belbenoit records that his immediate determination was to escape. He reached that decision, indeed, before leaving France, so it was not prison conditions which motivated him. Arrived, he made repeated attempts to get away. Four times he tried unsuccessfully, and his sentence grew accordingly. He had been warned by the commandant that escape was virtually impossible; he had been told that the only way to lighten his lot was by good behavior. He knew that attempts to escape resulted in longer terms and harsher treatment. If he persisted, it would seem that, at eight years in the colony, a somewhat frightful prospect, 15 years would have been worse. But apparently this view of the matter never occurred to Belbenoit.

One might understand the reasoning behind repeated attempts to get away if the convict in question were sentenced for life or if he had depended on his good behavior to lighten his original term and still have had his life before him. And he was alone in the world. His breaks for freedom, therefore, seem peculiarly stupid—they were the precise means of keeping him in the colony. Granting that his punishment was heavy for his crime, submission would still seem to have been the course of wisdom.

Yet the book definitely is not the work of a stupid man. It is well written and intelligent. It not only tells of the horrors of the penal colony, but it goes into the policy behind these horrors. It states flatly that the real purpose of the prison administration is to kill the prisoners off and, in support of this contention, points out that, though 700 men are sent there each year, the total number never increases. The death rate takes care of any increase.

The book also goes into the corruption of the prison officials to some length. Every man appointed there, says Belbenoit, from turnkey to commandant, has his particular graft, jealously guarded from other possible beneficiaries. Yet this system works to the benefit of the prisoners, for the long run, since all of the lower officials are open to bribes, so that a convict with a little money can ameliorate his lot considerably. Belbenoit pays tribute to Gov. Sadiou for honesty and humanity; he also mentions a physician who took his work among prisoners seriously. The others, however, he brands unscrupulous and brutal to an almost unbelievable degree.

Belbenoit, it should be said, did finally escape. He had written his book while there, encouraged by Blair Niles, who met him on his visit to the colony when she gathered material for her work, "Condemned to Devil's Island." Carrying his manuscript he broke away at last, journeying for two years through the jungles, enduring appalling hardships, and made his way up through Panama and Mexico to the United States. Mr. La Varre met him twice on the way. Negley Farson, in his "Transgressor in the Tropics," reports that he met an escaped convict in Panama. It may have been this same man.

Belbenoit is 38 today and, according to Mr. La Varre, "terribly emaciated, almost blind, toothless, scurvy-eaten and fever-wrecked." But for his repeated attempts to escape he would have been released with several years less time and surely in somewhat better health. It would seem indeed that the criminal does have a psychology of his own, a way of thinking that takes account of nothing but immediate desire, apart not only from morality but from common sense.

CONQUEROR OF THE SEAS. By Stefan Zweig. New York: The Viking Press.

THIS is the biography of a man of whom almost every one has heard but of whom few of us know more than his name—Ferdinand Magellan. It is a fine adventurous story. The author, according to his own account, made a trip to South America a short time ago and voyaged in such comfort and safety on the modern ship that the contrast between today's easy journeying and the hard, perilous sailing of the early discoverers could not but impress him. And it impressed him so deeply, he relates, that he finally came to write this book from "shame."

Allowing for a pleasant story, there is much to be said for the comparison, not as it applies to Mr. Zweig's particular case, but to those of all modern travelers. For nowhere in our life to day can we find a parallel for the hardships and dangers encountered by the men who pushed back the sea horizons of the world after the dark ages; such parallels no longer exist. The man who takes a party into the Antarctic probably comes closest to realizing the early conditions of exploring, but even his case does not approximate the conditions in essentials, for he knows where he is going, he knows how far he has to go and he knows, within limits, what he will find. The early voyagers, on the other hand,

knew only where they hoped to go. They were not even sure that the place was there. So, although the story of Magellan cannot be told without some hiatuses where records to cover his adventures do not exist, it still makes a fine romantic tale. His great voyage, of course, makes up the chief part of the book and as to it, Mr. Zweig's research has brought out enough to make a dramatic record. He tells us how the Spaniards who sailed under Magellan were jealous of their Portuguese admiral and how the three chief officers of the fleet, each in command of a ship, decided among themselves to disregard their commander's orders from their home ports. He tells how Magellan, seasoned in long-distance sailing, took personal command of equipping and provisioning the ships, how he tested every plank and rope and sail, wrangled over costs and fought conspiracies set afoot to keep him from setting out. With actually little personal information to go on he makes the doubly discoverer live on his extraordinary vividness.

The great point of the story is, of course, the discovery of the strait which gave Europe its long-sought passage to the East Indies, and here Mr. Zweig is particularly brilliant. He tells us how Magellan in Portugal got a carefully guarded document, which wrongly located the strait at the fortieth parallel south latitude, the author of the paper having mistaken the estuary of the Rio de la Plata for an arm of the sea. Fully believing that he had secret information which would lead him to the long-sought passage, Magellan felt himself to be in so strong a position that he hesitated not to announce that he positively knew where the strait was and could go directly thither. Under this delusion he bullied, prayed, persuaded, cajoled and bluffed the ministers of the Spanish court until they were actually afraid to refuse him, and against one another finally bid support his voyage. Then, of course, when he reached the South American shore, he found that he had been mistaken. There was no "passo" there. His information had been false.

It was at this point, the book brings out, that Magellan's greatness asserted itself, for he made no sign of his disappointment. Fortunately he had not expected to find the passage; therefore no one but himself knew of his mistake. He went on, sailing south along the Argentine shore, exploring every bay for the desired opening, keeping his own counsel. The season was winter, the sea unknown and the weather bad. Mutiny broke out, but he quelled it, executed or marooned the leaders and kept on. All this is told with such skill that, when the narrative finally reaches the point of the discovery any reader of sensibility

will be virtually sharing the lonely commander's pang.

Magellan, of course, did not live to bring his voyage to completion, but was killed in a minor and unnecessary affair with natives on the Island of Mactan. Of his companions 200 lost their lives and only one of the original 50 ships came back to the home port. But those who returned were able to say that they had done what no man had done before. They had circumnavigated the globe.

The book pays great tribute to Magellan for his honorable treatment of the native peoples whom he visited. Almost alone among the European explorers, he used truth and justice in dealing with the aborigines, and unlike so many of his compatriots, left no trail of suffering and crime behind him.

The book contains, too, an account of the costs of Magellan's fleet and a list of the stores with which it left port for a voyage of unknown length and destination. As has been said, there are considerable periods in the hero's career when nothing is known of his activities and so the real story of his life comes down to being a story of his voyage. But is that not story enough? There are not many to compare to it.

HEARKEN UNTO THE VOICE. By Franz Werfel. Translated from the German by Moray Firth. New York: The Viking Press.

THIS, the first novel by Franz Werfel since "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh," is the story of the prophet Jeremiah. It begins with the time, in Jeremiah's youth, when he first heard the command to prophesy, and ends with the destruction of Jerusalem by the army of the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar.

It is an immensely circumstantial thing and immensely detailed. At times it is finely dramatic. At other times, in spite of a stately movement, it is the artistic error of adumbration to the point of personal relevance and has therefore written of him without a shadow of irony or humor. Unhappily, no book can be utterly devoid of these two great ingredients and not suffer from the lack.

The story, as Herr Werfel tells it, is of one unique miracle, the intimate and constant association between Jeremiah and his God, a bond set up by God in order that He might have a voice on earth by which to speak to His chosen people. In order to enter into the book at all it is necessary for the reader to accept its premise and to accept it with primitive literalness. There are passages in the work, for example, where Jeremiah argues with God and changes the divine plan by his representations.

In spite of the novel's lofty style, therefore, and of the great historical knowledge poured into it, its psychology is somewhat like that of "The Green Pastures." But "The Green Pastures" was endowed with the appropriate charm of artlessness; this does not apply to "Hearken Unto the Voice." The latter work is serious with an unrelieved intensity which plainly grows out of its author's own emotion. It is a truism of course to say that the pure work of art does not allow for intrusion of any personal bias or feeling of its author, but like many truisms, that one is the truth. "Hearken Unto the Voice" suffers from a neglect of it.

Robert Nathan's "Jonah" ranks higher than this, Mr. Nathan allowed that even a divinely inspired man of God might feel the common pangs of humanity and suffer from humanity's besetting absurdity. But there are many, no doubt, who will find Herr Werfel's austere work entirely to their taste.

BROOKS TOO BROAD FOR LEAPING. By Flannery Lewis. New York: The Macmillan Co.

THIS is the story of a short period in the life of a little boy of 7. It begins with the child's first attendance at school and carries him on to his first holidays. It is sensitive and beautiful.

There is not much that can be said of it beyond that. Mr. Lewis is trying to put down the world of a child out of the wisdom of the adult. No one can reach true success in such a venture, for the very reason that the world of a child is, above all, inarticulate. The development of that part of the brain which makes connected records and interprets them is the beginning of adult life. To be able to recreate a child's world, therefore, is not to be able to do it. The effort necessarily defeats itself.

Yet Mr. Lewis has done a fine thing here. If he has been unable to create a child's life unintercepted, he has still put in, obviously out of his own vivid memories, some conversations and thought processes which are perfect. And the book as a whole has a profoundly moving quality. It captures beautifully that sense of permanence which belongs to childhood, when it is unthinkable that things will ever be different from the way they are, and it catches, too, the sense of strangeness which comes over the child when a change is demonstrably made. It is not a work to commend to seekers after popular reading, but it ought to delight the lover of the minor work of literature beautifully done.

LEON BLUM. By Geoffrey Frazer and Thaddeus Natanson. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

THIS is the biography of the former premier of France, the man who brought about the Popular Front regime in that country. It is a good complete record of M. Blum's activities, certainly, but it is written in a spirit of admiration which obviously approaches hero worship. It cannot, therefore, be recommended as a critical history.

The authors throughout their narrative see their subject as the man of the hour in France; they attribute to his activities the averted of panics and strikes and dissension with foreign powers, and, in the same spirit, they

Brief Reviews of Books

MYSTERIES.

THE SIMPLE WAY OF POISON. By Leslie Ford. New York: Farrar & Rinehart.

Murder in Georgetown, if you please! And very entertaining, too. Can be honestly recommended.

THE SWING MUSIC MURDER. By Harlan Reed. New York: E. P. Dutton Co.

Murder in a night club, very much complicated by the jargon talked by swing musicians. Fair.

THE JUDAS WINDOW. By Carter Dickson. New York: William Morrow.

Murder in a room with doors and windows locked from the inside. Solved by the detective Sir Henry Merrivale. Entertaining.

THE EMBARRASSED MURDERER. By Gail Stockwell. New York: Macmillan.

Murder among otherwise nice people. Solved by a "rising young criminologist." Entertaining.

THE PRAYING MANTIS. By Edgar Johnson. New York: Stockpole Sons.

A murder story with a character twist. Not bad.

DEATH SLAMS THE DOOR. By Paul Cade. New York: Modern Age Books.

A mystery involving the "world's strongest man." Average.

THE MISSING LINK. By Carolyn Wells. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

The indefatigable Miss Wells carries on, setting her Fleming Stone to solve two deaths in which a yacht and other grand properties are involved. Lively reading.

SEVEN MUST DIE. By James Warner Bellah. New York: D. Appleton-Century Co.

Treasure hunt in the romantic south seas, involving seven deaths and much romance. Lively reading.

DEATH IS THY NEIGHBOR. By Lillian L. Mowrer. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

Murder in a gloomy country house. Solved by a friend of the murdered man's niece. Average.

MURDER WITHOUT MOTIVE. By R. L. Goldman. New York: Coward McCann.

A tramp is murdered in a Midwestern city and high characters show uneasiness. Solved by a bright reporter, if you can imagine that.



FRANZ WERFEL, Author of "Hearken Unto the Voice," his first novel since "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh." (Viking Press.)

WASHINGTON'S BEST SELLERS FOR WEEK ENDING FEB. 12.

Fiction.

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS. Disney. Grosset.

THE CITADEL. Cronin. Little-Brown.

NORTHWEST PASSAGE. Roberts. Doubleday-Doran.

THE NUTMEG TREE. Sharp. Little-Brown.

THE PRODIGAL PARENTS. Lewis. Doubleday-Doran.

SLOGUM HOUSE. Sandor. Little-Brown.

Non-Fiction.

FOLKLORE OF CAPITALISM. E. H. Carr. Yale University Press.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING. Yutang. Reynal & Hitchcock.

ONE AMERICAN. Hunt. Simon & Schuster.

RED STAR OVER CHINA. Snow. Random House.

MADAME CURIE. Curie. Doubleday-Doran.

PERSONS IN HIDING. Hoover. Little-Brown.

see every one who has opposed him as motivated by selfish or party aims. It is a refreshingly simple picture, but, alas, one so seldom met with in actual life!

Still, a reader who wishes to familiarize himself with the outline of M. Blum's career, the steps by which he rose to his recent eminence, can find the desired information in this book. The facts are there. The interpretations can be left to individual readers.

HEALTH INSURANCE. By Louis S. Reed. New York: Harper & Bros.

FOR better or worse, a great deal will be heard about health insurance in the next few years. That it is a subject of intense public interest is evident from the discussions which one hears almost everywhere one goes in Washington since the Home Owners' Loan Corp. health clinic was established in the face of strenuous opposition from the local medical society.

The medical profession has powerful arguments against any form of health insurance, or socialized medicine, which in any way interferes with the freedom of the individual to choose his or her own doctor. These arguments are more than logical. They are supported by a wealth of historical facts. It has often seemed that the objections to any form of socialism are doubly potent in the field of medicine, where so much depends on the initiative, interest and ambition of the individual.

But there is, most assuredly, another side to the question. It cannot be denied that the medical care given the American people, by and large, is hardly adequate. Nor can it be denied that sickness, under the present system, offers an almost unconquerable financial handicap to the average family.

Mr. Reed, a Washingtonian, presents the other side of the picture. One can hardly fail to observe that advocates of socialized medicine often talk nonsense simply because they have not taken the trouble to acquaint themselves with the facts in the possession of the medical profession.

It is equally true that doctors themselves sometimes talk nonsense. It wouldn't hurt any of them to read this book. It never hurts any of us to know the other side. —T. R. H.

PROMETHEUS AND THE BOLSHIEVS. By John Lehmann. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

"PROMETHEUS AND THE BOLSHIEVS" is described on the jacket blurb as a travel book on Soviet Georgia.

This is somewhat misleading. It is true that Mr. Lehmann starts his book with the statement of a train at Moscow which takes us to Tiflis. It is true that we visit with him various parts of Transcaucasia.

The book is more of a hymn of praise for Soviet accomplishment, however, than it is a pure travel book. The writer is obviously attracted by the Bolsheviki ideology and is much impressed with the wide cultural advantages which the Soviet regime may offer the masses.

He is particularly impressed by what he sees of life in Tiflis under Moscow's rule. Two or three theaters have recently been started there, and dramatic productions have been encouraged.

An attractive picture is painted for us in the "Bary and handsome Georgians." We are shown the uninhibited citizens of Tiflis stopping to perform national dances in the street or suddenly rising in the cafes to recite poetry.

The author bemoans the sterile sterility which binds the citizens of some other countries and unhesitatingly holds out hope to all of the world of becoming sovietized and the promise of culture for the masses everywhere.

It is hard to visualize an American or an Englishman, of any class, stopping to execute a "pas seul" in the middle of the street or rising to declaim his latest poem in public, even if he were living in a Socialist state. The descriptions of the country are photographic in their completeness. There is nothing of suggestion in Mr. Lehmann's method. He does not make us feel as if we would like to

LADY ASTOR'S SET

Political Purpose Is To Make England's Foreign Policy More Favorable to Germany, Cockburn Says.

By M.-C. R.

LADY ASTOR is a leading figure in an article which appears in the February issue of Current History. The name of the piece is "Britain's Cliveden Set" and the author is Claud Cockburn.

According to Mr. Cockburn, Lady Astor is the center of a group whose political purpose is to make England's foreign policy favorable to Germany. To quote him:

"Cliveden is the Thames Valley country residence of Viscountess (Nancy) Astor, sometime of Virginia and now wife of Viscount Astor, owner of the weekly Sunday newspaper, the Observer. Her brother-in-law, Maj. the Hon. John Jacob Astor, owns the controlling interest in the London Times. Both are profoundly influential, directly or indirectly, by the enormously energetic and sprightly Lady Astor.

"In a country where so much of the most important politics is played at week ends in large country houses, Cliveden, by reason of the passionate political interest of its hostess, and the enormous power which her family wealth and newspaper connections represent, has been one of the most politically important of British country houses."

As Mr. Cockburn sees it, the Cliveden group wishes to influence British politics in favor of Germany for rather paradoxical reasons. On the one hand, he says, England is afraid "with a fear amounting to panic of a possible German attack upon Britain." And on the other hand, there is great dislike of the Communist and popular front governments on the continent. "They regard, correctly," he writes, "Germany as the greatest potential menace to Britain. They acknowledge, theoretically, that the means to neutralize that menace are ready to hand in the shape of a closer alliance and co-operation between Britain, France, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union."

"But . . . they are in the awkward position of feeling bound to reject, for the most part, the very defenses which offer themselves, since they cannot bear the notion of an association with the Soviet Union or a strengthening of the alliances and pacts of the Soviet Union in Central and Western Europe."

"The influence exerted by this group is great. Mr. Cockburn asserts with positiveness. He lists as members 'Lady Astor, Lord Astor, Maj. Astor, Lord Lothian, Lord Londonderry, chief of the Conservative party organization; Mr. Geoffrey Dawson, editor of the Times; Mr. Barrington Ward, one of his principal assistants; Hoare, present Home Secretary; and Sir Neville Henderson, British Ambassador to Berlin; Lord Halifax himself, and a whole string of satellites . . ."

"The Aga Khan," he adds, "occupies a somewhat eccentric position close to the Cliveden set."

"The cabinet ministers most closely associated with the set are Sir Samuel Hoare, present Home Secretary, and Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer."

"It would be hard," says Mr. Cockburn, somewhat unnecessarily considering this array of names, "to exaggerate the ramifications of the power and influence represented by the Cliveden Set in politics, newspapers and the City."

AS A contrast to the routine type of war story sent out from the Spanish front, Current History publishes a series of "Spanish War Profiles" by Nina Belmonte, in which there is shown "an aspect of the war which has heretofore received scant attention: the ties that still bind both sides together."

Miss Belmonte is a writer affiliated with the nationalist faction. Her "profiles" have been gathered from personal observation at the fighting front.

She writes that it is her impression that "when finally the fight has ended there will be neither victors nor vanquished, but brothers, all united and eager to help create a great united country."

As evidence of this state of mind among the Spanish people, she quotes such striking incidents as the following:

"Things had been very quiet on the Aragon front late last spring. Opposite us, hardly 500 yards away, was the enemy trench; in between a vineyard. Grapes were ripe, and had to be picked and eaten. The strong heat made the sight of those fresh grapes a permanent torture for fighters on both sides. Finally the present Home Secretary, and Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer."

"What about a truce while we pick them up?"

"A few minutes of silence. Then: 'Why not?' replied a nationalist soldier."

"Out of their trenches came the opposite side, unarmed this time. Together they gathered the grapes, chatted amiably with each other and exchanged jokes. . . ."

"The work finally accomplished, the grapes were equally divided. Then each group took its share to its own trench. The shooting was resumed shortly afterward."

go to Georgia, but as if we had been there.

Mr. Lehmann yields now and again the desire to prove his point, at any cost. He assures us, at one time that Stalin has abolished autocracy from one-sixth of the world while, later on, he tells us that the sudden changing of a building "plan" for Tiflis "will remain the symbol of a system where the whole direction of creative activity can be swung around at a word from a central office."

He finds the suppression of the first Communist uprising in Georgia ruthless and revolting while the Communist suppression of the old ruling class is merely the inevitable corollary of any social revolution.

The author presents his facts, many of them very interesting and thought-provoking. He draws no conclusions but ends with an allegorical dream in which he shows us Prometheus, symbol of material power, liberated from his age-old imprisonment and—joining the Communist party—H. C. L.

subjects which may be borrowed from the central library at Eighth and K streets N. W. and many of the branches. On rural America's "Rural Sociology," by John M. Gillette; "A Study of Rural Society, Its Organization and Changes," by John H. Kolb and Edmund de S. Brunner; "Small-Town Stuff," by Albert Blumenthal; "Rural Trends in Depression Years," by Edmund S. Brunner; "Farmers Without Land," by Rupert B. Vance; "I Was a Share-Cropper," by Harry H. Kroll; "Hollow Kool," by Mandel Sherman and Thomas R. Henry; "Nurses on Horseback," by Ernest Poole; "Cabins in the Laurel," by Mrs. Muriel Sheppard; "I Went to Pit College," by Harriet W. Gilliland; "The Rural Church, Today and Tomorrow," published by National Conference on the Rural Church, and "Rebuilding Rural America," by Mark A. Dawber.

On the Moslem world—"Mecca and Beyond," by Edward M. Dodd; "New World of Islam," by Theodore L. Stoddard; "The New Orient, the Near East," "Legacy of Islam," edited by Sir Thomas Arnold and Alfred Guillaume; "Nationalism and Imperialism in the Hither East," by Hans Kohn; "Short History of the Near East," by William S. Davis; "History of the Arabs," by Philip K. Hitti; "Mohammed," by E. W. Lane; "Meaning of the Glorious Koran," an explanatory translation by Marmaduke Pickthall, and "Christian Literature in Moslem Lands," published by the Joint Committee for the Survey of Christian Literature for Moslems.

MISSIONARY education groups in the Protestant churches throughout the country are studying "Rural America" and "The Moslem World" this winter. In the hope of aiding study groups in local churches, the Public Library suggests a selected list of books on various aspects of these

Public Library